

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified RCE prior to examination.

The RCE and this Preliminary Amendment are submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 5, 2003, and an Advisory Action mailed on March 16, 2004 to request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 4-27, and 29-38 as set forth therein.

Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for the continued indication that claims 39, 41, 46, 47, and 49 are allowed and that claims 1, 4-26, 27, and 29-38 are allowable.

In the Final Official Action, the Examiner objects to the Drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the Drawings do not show the limitation of one of first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed to only the payload or a portion thereof as recited in claim 1.

In response, as discussed below, independent claims 1 and 27 have been amended to recite that:

"motion constraint means for maintaining a parallel relationship between the payload and the base structure throughout a range of motion, the motion constraint means comprising at least two parallelogram linkages, each of the at least two parallelogram linkages comprises first and second parallelogram sub-linkages, each of the first and second parallelogram sub-linkages having first and second supporting links, the first and second supporting links for each of the first and second parallelogram sub-linkages being connected to a common member, the first and second supporting links for one of the first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed to only the payload or a portion thereof through first rotating joints, the first and second supporting links

for the other of the first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed to only the base structure or a portion thereof through second rotating joints."

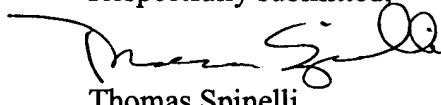
Claim 36 has been similarly amended. Applicants respectfully submit that the features recited in independent claims 1, 27, and 36, as amended, is shown in at least Figure 1.

In the Final Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 4-27, and 29-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the phrases "one of the first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed only to the payload or a portion thereof" and "the other of the first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed to only the base structure or a portion thereof" as recited in claim 1 are incorrect. In response, claims 1, 27, and 36 have been amended as discussed above to clarify their distinguishing features.

The amendment to claims 1, 27, and 36 are fully supported in the original disclosure, particularly at Figure 1. Thus, no new matter has been introduced into the disclosure by way of the present amendment.

In view of the above, early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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